

THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

"The agitation of thought is the beginning of Truth."

VOL. 2.

New York, Saturday, January 15, 1848.

NO. 18.

S. R. KIRBY, M. D. AND R. A. SNOW, M. D., EDITORS.

DEAN, PRINTER, 2 ANN-ST.

This JOURNAL will be issued on the first and third Saturdays of each month at One Dollar a year, in advance. City subscribers will be regularly served at their residences by sending their names to the Editors.

Subscribers may remit to the Editors, by mail, the amount of their subscription—the Postmaster will frank all letters containing money for this Journal.

Country subscribers can have the Journal sent to them by mail, on the above terms.

All communications must be addressed, (post paid) to the Editors, 311 or 729 Broadway.

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, JAN. 18, 1848.

THE ACTION OF DYNAMIZED MEDICINES.

[Continued from Page 188.]

While comparatively few doubt, and scarcely any attempt the refutation of the principle that medicines will cure in the sick diseases similar to such as they are capable of producing in the healthy, the majority of those who oppose Homœopathy, ridicule the employment of small doses; assuming that they cannot have any effect, and content themselves by attributing the results claimed for the Homœopathic treatment, to change of diet, the imagination of the patient, or the curative powers of nature. In thus opposing a system of medical science, which they do not seem to think worth their while to examine, and to subject to any proper practical tests, they forget that, if either objection be correct, so long as the said results of the new practice are admitted to be true, it is a con-

clusive argument against the unpleasant and dangerous arts with which they undertake to afford relief to the system, when laboring under disease.

The first two objections are too insignificant to induce a serious consideration of them. Some of the most striking effects of the Homœopathic medicines are often produced almost instantaneously, "between meals," so that, if any change of diet is prescribed, the cure is effected before the new regimen shall have been commenced;—as in cures of neuralgic affections, tic douloureux, toothache, headache, croup, influenza, dysentery, &c., &c.;—in cases of children, when the diet is never changed, and the imagination never sought to be operated upon (!), and in animals where none is supposed to exist, except by those who would, in some way, account for the prompt curative changes, which follow the administration of small doses, in well marked cases of suffering and disease. A little reflection must convince anyone that neither of these objections can be valid—and we could make a great variety of illustrations, and cite very many cases to show, that they are not only not valid, but that they are discreditable to the intelligence and the judgment of him who makes them.

But if they were good, and valid, and afforded sufficient explanation for the effects sought to be accounted for, the objector might fairly be asked why he does not adopt the same plan, obtain the like results, and thus match the Homœopathic treatment, and expose the humbuggery of its pretensions?

The curative power of nature was taught by Hippocrates, but has never been practically confided in till the time of Hahnemann. Admitting that nature is competent to cure in most cases, and believing, as we do, that patients would "fare as well" and "better if left to her restorative powers," and crude

drugs were never employed, it may justly be asked, if this be the real secret of the success of the Homœopathic treatment, why a similar course is not adopted as the best means of nullifying the monopolizing tendency of the new practice, instead of using it as an argument against the truth of the system upon which it is based?

If Homœopathy has demonstrated—as by such objections it is insisted she has—that the most prompt relief may be afforded to suffering patients, and the most radical cures may be wrought by simply changing the diet, exciting the imagination, or leaving the patient to the restorative power of the system, surely it has claims upon the attention and respectful consideration of the physician, and the gratitude of mankind. It ought to be hailed as one of the greatest and best lights that has sprung upon the dark pathways of an art without true principles—a system devoid of science.

If nature unaided, or by the assistance of diet, and with the aid of the imagination be competent to cure, surely the medical man is bound by every honorable motive, and by every natural impulse, to trust his patient to her kind and efficient care, and to desist from an interference with her curative efforts, and from interposing obstacles, painful and unnecessary. Then if his success equal that of the Homœopaths, he will be able to demonstrate the enormity of the Allopathic treatment, and the folly and absurdity of the Homœopathic treatment.

(To be Continued.)

REVIEW OF A REVIEW OF HAHNEMANN'S CHRONIC DISEASES.

By B. F. BOWERS, M. D., OF NEW YORK.

Continued from Page 194.

The law "Similior similibus" is admitted by Allopathic physicians to be a true principle in therapeutics, and by some, of the highest authority, its value and importance is insisted on. They gladly have recourse to all the specific remedies with which they are acquainted, and some of them are candid enough to acknowledge their obligations to Homœopathy; but they really have a very limited knowledge of the specific effects of drugs and are consequently very incompetent to discover the remedy specifically adapted to

a given case. Homœopaths also adopt the law, and having a much more thorough knowledge of the pathogenetic and specific effects of drugs, they are enabled to perceive its application in many cases where Allopathists overlook and deny it. They find in all cases where the similarity between the effects of the drug and the symptoms of the disease exists, and in proportion to the closeness of the similarity, that the remedy when properly administered exerts a specific effect, and usually a direct curative power, upon the disease. Finding that this law is of universal application, so far as their knowledge of the effects of drugs and the phenomena of disease enables them to apply it, by a fair induction from all the facts of the case, they conclude that it is a true law, a law of nature universally true.

The reviewer says "How then, we ask again, do the disciples of Hahnemann convince themselves of the truth and universality of the law. Now we hesitate not to say, that they take it for granted, not only without evidence, but in the face of thousands of well established facts which prove its falsity. Their love of novelties, of hypothesis, of a grand, though false, generalization, outweighs their love of truth, of induction, of established facts; and in the want of a well grounded knowledge of physiology, pathology, and therapeutics, they adopt a system at war with all these, with reason and with common sense."

As the reviewer repeats the enquiry how Homœopaths convince themselves of the truth and universality of the law and hesitates not—he never hesitates to speak evil falsely of an opponent, it should seem—to say, that it is owing to causes most dishonorable to them, as physicians and as men; I would merely answer that they probably convince themselves of the truth of the law by the same means that they convince such men as Hufeland and other distinguished Allopathists of its truth. If there were thousands of well established facts which prove its falsity, why not give a few facts and settle the question by fair argument instead of attacking the characters of those who hold the controverted doctrines. The well established facts prove the truth of the law, as it would be easy to show by Allopathic authority; for instance it is well known, that Cinchona causes and cures chills and fever, that mercury causes symptoms so nearly like the symptoms

of Syphilis, that the one is hardly distinguished from the other, and yet mercury is the specific remedy for the cure of Syphilis; that mercury is considered the indispensable remedy for Liver Complaints, and yet is asserted on very high authority that mercury has caused more diseased livers than it has ever cured; Sulphur cures the itch and produces an eruption similar to the itch; frozen limbs are cured by snow, burns by heat, Small Pox by Kine Pox, &c.

The extracts already given from Allopathic writers will show how much reason the reviewer has to boast of their attainments and to charge Homœopaths with want of a well-grounded knowledge of physiology, pathology and therapeutics, when it is frankly stated by Allopathists that "The great laws of pathology and its relations—of etiology and therapeutics—are yet to be ascertained."

"The whole doctrine of Homœopathy, as laid down in the *Organon*, is but a jumble of contradictions and absurdities," says the reviewer. Dr. Forbes says: "By most medical men it was taken for granted that the system was one, not only visionary in itself, but was the result of a mere fanciful hypothesis, disconnected with facts of any kind, and supported by no processes of ratiocination or logical inference; while its author, and his apostles and successors were looked upon either as visionaries or quacks, or both. And yet nothing can be further from the truth. Whoever examines the Homœopathic doctrines as announced and expounded in the original writings of Hahnemann, and of many of his followers, must admit, not only that the system is an ingenious one, but that it professes to be based on a most formidable array of facts, and experiments, and that these are woven into a complete code of doctrine with singular dexterity and much apparent fairness." There can be no doubt of Dr. Forbes's competency to form an opinion on this subject, nor of the nature of the causes which led the reviewer to a conclusion so widely different.

Again the reviewer asks: But what do we do, when we adopt Homœopathy? Why nothing more nor less than deny well-established facts; for example, that pain is relieved by narcotics; inflammation by cold and bleeding; diarrhœa by astringents and constipation by laxatives." On the contrary in adopting Homœopathy we deny no facts, and especially none of the facts here mentioned. I can-

not suppose the reviewer so grossly ignorant of the subject on which he attempts to enlighten the public as to believe his own statement; there is absolutely nothing in Homœopathy to sanction it. Dr. Stearns the venerable President of the New York Academy of Medicine in his inaugural address last year asserted that: "The alleviation of pain by narcotics gives to Homœopathic practice all its popularity." This does not agree very well with the reviewer's statement, but is like it, entirely destitute of truth.

The reviewer has recourse to his usual artifice when speaking of the preparation and doses of Homœopathic remedies. He says: "The whole doctrine of dynamization of medicines is contradictory in itself; at war with common sense and the laws of nature." And then he quotes Hahnemann to prove it. "Formerly when I was in the habit of giving a whole drop of the attenuation, mixed with a little water, I found that ten shakes developed the medicinal power of a drug to an excessive degree, and I therefore substituted two shakes in the place of ten, &c." Now the reader would hardly infer from the "&c." so conveniently introduced here, that Hahnemann goes on to say in the very next sentence—"I have found that ten strokes are not too many, and that it becomes therefore my duty to recant the doctrine which I have promulgated on this head." This is a sample of the fairness of the reviewer's quotations.

Take another quotation in which, the reviewer says, contradiction appears. "The power of small and highly diluted doses was doubted, their greater fitness for effecting a Homœopathic cure, and the higher development of their dynamic action, were overlooked, and, despite of the warning trials which enabled me to recommend small doses as the most appropriate for the cure of disease, my faithful assurances and reasonings were disdained, and medical men continued, for years, to jeopardize the lives of their patients by large doses, &c. What would they have risked if they had first followed my indications, and had employed small doses! The worst which could have befallen them, was, that these doses would be of no avail. It was impossible that they should do any harm!" "Where is potentization here?" Observe, here is another "&c." in the quotation, and the reviewer has again been so very unfortunate in what he has quoted and what he

has omitted, as entirely to misrepresent his author's meaning. Hahnemann was here speaking of Homœopathic treatment, as would have been manifest had the reviewer finished the sentence, instead of cutting it short with "&c." Thus Hahnemann says "medical men continued for years to jeopardize the lives of their patients by large doses, and were therefore deprived of an opportunity of witnessing the happy results of the Homœopathic treatment, as was indeed my own case before I had adopted the rule of administering small doses." These men were endeavoring to practise Homœopathy. "But, instead of exhibiting small doses, they employed from want of sense, and of their own accord, large doses for Homœopathic use, thus exposing the lives of their patients and arriving at truth by that circuitous route which I had travelled upon before them with trembling hesitation; but the end of which I had just reached with success." Under these circumstances the pertinency and force of Hahnemann's remark is obvious. They selected the Homœopathic remedy and injured their patients by large doses. "What would they have risked if they had first followed my indications, and had employed small doses? The worst which could have befallen them, was, that these doses would be of no avail.—It was impossible that they should do any harm;" not because it was impossible that they should have any effect one way or the other, but because the remedy being truly indicated, and the dose being so small as to prevent any injurious effects, the result must be beneficial if any effect was produced.

The reviewer has been puzzled to understand the *how* and the *why*, of the effects of the Homœopathic preparations; but says—"Hahnemann explains the difficulty; the high potentizations are, after all, absolutely inert, and if they do no good, they can never do any harm." Now if there is one thing clearly taught by Hahnemann, it is the power of small and highly diluted doses, the higher developement of their dynamic action and their greater fitness for affecting a Homœopathic cure; and the attempt of the reviewer to pervert his language so as to convey an opposite meaning, is in keeping with the candor and honesty manifested throughout the article.

But let us examine the doctrine of the dynamization of medicines and see whether it is, as the reviewer asserts, contradictory in

itself, at war with common sense and the laws of nature.

Pereira in his *Elements of Materia Medica and Therapeutics* says: "The state of aggregation of a medicine modifies its effect." Paris in the *Pharmacologia* (p. 102) says: "A substance separated by chemical precipitation is often a valuable remedy, being in a much more soluble and impalpable form than any body can be rendered by mechanical trituration and levigation." (p. 122) "The disintegration of a substance is much accelerated and extended by the addition of other materials." Pereira (p. 592 vol.) "Some difference of opinion exists as to the effects of liquid mercury when swallowed; one party asserting that it is poisonous, another that it is innocuous. The truth I believe to be this: so long as it retains the metallic state it is inert; but it sometimes combines with oxygen in the alimentary canal, and in this way acquires activity. Dr. Christison considers the question set at rest by the Berlin College of Physicians and that the metal is innocuous."

"Mercurial Pill, Blue Pill. By trituration, the metal is reduced to a finely divided state, and becomes intimately mixed with the confection and liquorice powder."

"Ointment of Mercury. The mercury is in a finely-divided metallic state. It readily produces the constitutional effects of mercury, and its internal use is recommended where the system appears insusceptible to the influence of mercury."

In the case of mercury, then, we find, in the crude metallic state, it exerts no medicinal power whatever, but that, when brought into "a finely-divided metallic state" by trituration with a non-medicinal substance, which merely serves the purpose of keeping the metallic particles in a state of minute division, it readily produces those powerful constitutional effects, which are so well known, which have broken down and ruined so many constitutions, and destroyed so many lives. This is in perfect accordance with the views of Hahnemann and affords a good illustration of the potentization of a drug.

Hahnemann (*Chronic Diseases*, Vol. 1. p. 187.) "The alteration which is effected in the properties of natural substances, either by triturating or shaking them in conjunction with a non-medicinal powder or liquid, is almost marvellous." The peculiar mode adop-

ted for the preparation of Homœopathic remedies, enables us to develop the medicinal virtues of a drug," &c.

Paris' Pharmacologia (p. 116.) "The doses of medicinal substances are specific with respect to each, and can therefore be *only learnt from experience*; the young and eager practitioner, however, is too often betrayed into the error of supposing that the powers of a remedy always increase in an equal ratio with its dose, whereas, **THE DOSE ALONE VERY OFTEN DETERMINES ITS SPECIFIC ACTION.** Medicines, says Linnæus, *differ from poisons, not in their nature, but their dose.*"

"Would it not appear that *powerful doses rather produce a local than general effect*? Experience seems to prove in this respect, that the effect of an internal application, is similar to that of an external impression; if violent, it affects the part only, as pinching does that of the skin; whereas titillation, which may be said to differ only from the former in degree, acts upon the whole system, and occasions itching, and laughter, and if long continued, weakness, sickness, vomiting, and convulsions; in like manner *Digitalis*, if given in large doses, acts immediately upon the stomach or bowels, becoming emetic, and cathartic; but in smaller proportions, it produces a **GENERAL** effect, increasing all the excretions. I am well satisfied that the regulation of the dose of a medicine is even more important than it is usually supposed to be. *Substances frequently inert and useless in one dose, may prove in another active and valuable.*"

(To be Continued.)

(Continued from p. 13.)

CHARACTERISTICS AND PHYSIOGRAPHY OF THE GENUS CROUP AND ITS SPECIES.

From the *N. Archiv.*, Vol. II. 2, with Modifications and Additions.)

II. PHYSIOGRAPHY OF THE GENUS CROUP AND ITS SPECIES.

1.—*Bromine-croup.*

a. On Animals.—Howling with very hoarse voice. Exudative character of the inflammation of the mucous membrane of the larynx and trachea, and, commencing formation of pseudo-membranes. Spasmodic closing of the

epiglottis, and hence violent suffocative symptoms. Short cough. Hoarse whistling cough.

—Dry cough, with croupy tone. Obstinate cough, with croupy tone, accompanied by sneezing. Frequent short cough, and from time to time violent attacks of suffocation. —Mucous rattle during respiration. Very difficult breathing; impeded respiration. —Great dyspnoea. Deep slow respiration, with whistling tone. Impeded, sometimes protracted and suffocative, sometimes rapid and superficial respiration.

(Death took place with violent convulsions, or in a very debilitated state, with signs of suffocation, from inflammation or paralysis of the lungs.)

Dissection.—Inflammation of the organs of respiration. A quantity of bloody foam in the larynx and trachea. Inflammation in the larynx, trachea, and bronchi; sometimes consisting of slight reddish stripes, sometimes of reddish colouring. Great inflammation of the larynx and trachea, with exudation of plastic lymph, almost completely stopping up the air passages.

b. On Men.—Cough, with suffocative symptoms. Straining cough, not allowing speech. Great oppression of chest and impeded respiration. Difficult, painful breathing.

Concomitant Affections.—Epistaxis, (with relief.) Pale colour of the face; thirst. Increased urinary secretion. Full, hard, at first slow, afterwards rapid, pulse. (*Noack and Trinks*, A.M.L.)

Remarks.—This proving of Bromine is derived from two prize essays, published in Tübingen, by Drs. Horing and Heimerdinger. If their experiments on animals and men are correct—and there is no reason to doubt their accuracy—then we must assign to Bromine the first place amongst the croup remedies we as yet know. It is very remarkable that among the many thousand poisonings of the toxicologists dissection has never yet exhibited effects similar to croup. In recent times croup has been observed to arise from chlorine vapours. Guersent says on this point, (*Encyclop. d. Med. Wissensch.*) "With respect to chlorine gas, Bretonneau, although he was aware that a young chemist on being exposed to the action of this gas was affected by a sort of croup, did not hesitate to employ it in croup, however, notwithstanding some successful results, he was forced to abandon it, as it produced inflammation of the lungs." It is evident from this that Bretonneau, in spite of his

success, was constrained to give it up, as the large doses he administered attacked the lungs. Albers gives two instances of suffocation in consequence of inspiration of chlorine gas, with croup-like symptoms and expectoration of pseudo-membranous matter.— (*Vide Canstatt's spec. Path. and Therap.*)

Homœopathy has in recent times employed Iodine also in croup. Hahnemann showed Spongia to be a croup remedy. In sea water there has been found Iodine, Bromine, and Chlorine. Spongia is said to be useful in croup from containing Iodine. Ragazzini has also found Bromine in it. (*Scoperta del bromo nella spugna marina.* Can we find out a natural historical connection in these facts? Such hypothesis carry us still further. As Spongia contains Bromine, we may ask if its efficacy in croup does not depend more on its Bromine than on its Iodine? As croup is very frequent on the sea-coast, it would be important to ascertain if the effluvia from the sea are not an exciting cause of croup from their containing Bromine, Iodine, or Chlorine, or perhaps from the whole three.

2.—*Hepar-croup.*

Violent attacks of croup from time to time, as if suffocation or vomiting would ensue. (S. H.)

Deep dry cough, cough with obstructed breathing on inspiring, and pain in the top of the chest at every cough. S. H.

Asthmatic cough, solely from obstructed breathing. (S. H.)

Violent deep cough, consisting of several impulses; which strike painfully against the larynx, and occasion retching. S. H.

Scratching, scraping cough. S. H.

Cough with mucous expectoration, all day, excited by a scraping irritation in the windpipe, but especially in the throat. (S. H.)

Cough, day and night. (S. H.)

Cough so much increased by deep inspiration that it causes vomiting. S. H.

Cough, causing vomiting. S. H.

Weakness of the voice and chest, so that she cannot speak loud. S. H.

Shortness of breath. S. H.

Great pressure in the throat, so that she thinks it is quiet constricted, and that she must choke. S. H.

Frequent deep inspiration as if after running. (S. H.)

Concomitant affections.—Melancholy humor

for many hours; she must cry bitterly. S. A.

Depressed, melancholy, uneasy. S. H.

Epistaxis, for two successive days. Epistaxis after singing. (S. H.)

Excessive thirst, from morning till evening. Fr. H.

Pale clear urine, when first discharged, becoming cloudy and thick, and depositing a white sediment. Curdy cloudy urine, with a white sediment when first discharged. Dark-yellow urine, scalding whilst discharged. Brownish-red urine. S. H.

Swelling of the right hand. Swelling of the fingers of both hands, with stiffness whilst lying. (S. H.)

So sleepy and fatigued, in the evening, that he fell asleep whilst sitting. Great irresistible inclination to sleep in the evening; he must lie down immediately after supper, and sleeps till morning. S. H.

Great perspiration day and night. F. H.

Clammy, profuse perspiration at night. Nocturnal sweat. Nocturnal perspiration before midnight. S. H.

ADDENDA.

1. *Clinical Observation.*—*Hepar* 2, one dose. At the commencement, catarrhal symptoms. Afterwards the boy (not quiet five years old) must sit up generally, as lying makes him feel uneasy; he tosses about in his sleep. Respiration snoring, hoarse, whistling, frequently so short and anxious that the child, awakened by a violent dry, hoarse cough, which causes retching, starts up suddenly, puts his hand to his larynx, and in the greatest alarm, with a very red face, projecting eyes, and frequent throwing back of the head, begins to cry. These attacks go off for a few minutes, and return all the more violently. Much thirst, heat, and perspiration. Rapid talking. Pulse quick and hard. Urine very dark; he must frequently empty his bladder. The medicine was administered at night, and the following morning the child was playing about as usual. (Hartmann. *Archiv*, V, Part 1, p. 105.)

Hepar, 3, was repeated with good effects after a few hours, the first dose not having produced any perceptible result. (*Gross Archiv*, XI, Part 3, p. 72.)

Hepar, (2;) and, after sixteen hours, one-tenth of a drop of *Tinct. Spongiæ*; thereafter a still smaller dose of *Hepar*. The child (a boy of about eight years, who had been exposed to a cold wind whilst in a state of per-

spiration) lay in an almost comatose condition with head thrown back. The chest rose high during inspiration, which was performed very noisily, and even the shoulders were in motion. He started up occasionally, anxiously grasped at any thing near him, in order to steady himself and facilitate respiration. Then ensued violent dry coughing, with a rough, shrill, whistling sound. Very considerable heat, great thirst, and renewal of the cough after drinking. Pulse generally hard, but sometimes soft or intermittent. Urine fiery red: bowels constipated. Complexion sometimes dark-red or blueish. The carotids swell and pulsate violently; on the head cold perspiration breaks out. After almost every cough, he grasps at his throat, and cries. In the region of the larynx there is a red elevated spot of the size of a penny piece. Sometimes, especially after coughing, there is retching and even vomiting. A cure was effected on the third day of treatment.—Gross. *Archiv*, VI, Part 1, p. 67.

Hepar and *Spongia* were given with good effect, alternately, in croup, and cough with croupy sound, and this alternation apparently shortened the duration of the disease.—(Rumel. *Allg. Hom. Ztg.*, III, 26.)

Hepar, preceded by *Aconite*. The patient (a boy of four years old) awakes with a barking hoarse cough, which increases in violence. Respiration very much accelerated and short. He frequently grasps at his throat, where a loud rattle is heard at each inspiration. Face red; pulse very quick; constant tossing about of the head and perceptible difficulty in swallowing. The symptoms rapidly yielded to these medicines, and a dose of *Chamomilla* removed a slight catarrhal cough that remained. (*Jahrbuch d. hom. Heilanstalt* I, 173)

Hepar Sulph. was almost always successful in croup, without the assistance of *Aconite* and *Spongia*. In bad cases *Hepar* was given three or four times daily. (Gross. *Archiv*, XI, Part 1, p. 110)

Hepar Sulph. 4, three hours after the administration of *Acon.* 24. The patient (a boy of two and a half years,) lay with his head thrown back, buried in the pillow, face swollen, neck stretched, mucous and sibilant rales, clucking noise of the glottis, respiration noisy, cough loud and harsh, with distinct croupy tone, exhaustion, pulse 140, hard and full. The following morning the patient was up and well. (Gueyard, *Doctrine Homœopathique*, p. 134.)

2. *Sources*.—Hahnemann's Chronic Diseases, Vol. III.

Abbreviations.—S. H., Samuel Hahnemann; Fr. H., Frederick Hahnemann.

To be Continued.

(Continued from p. 178.)

MERCURY.

"Some medical men, from misunderstanding mercurial cases, have supposed that the affections of the throat and nose, with caries of the bones which have so notoriously accompanied lues venerea since that disease became known to mankind, are chiefly or entirely occasioned by the use of mercury. But the uniform experience of all physicians practising in tropical climates strongly contradicts this hypothesis. Both in the East and West Indies immense quantities of calomel, together with mercurial frictions, are prescribed for the cure of various diseases, and are productive often of long and continued salivation, without affecting any other bones than the teeth and their sockets.

Mental derangement, with eventual fatuity, has sometimes followed a course of mercury; and the probable reason why it does not do so more frequently, is, that the irritable state of mind which usually precedes actual derangement, commonly alarms the attendants, and leads to active precautionary measures.

Another consequence of the use of mercury is a very violent affection of the skin, originally hinted at by Mr. Benjamin Bell—and more lately particularly described by Dr. Alley of Dublin, Dr. Spens of Edinburgh, and Mr. Pearson of London. It has been styled hydrargyria by Dr. Alley, erythema mercuriale by Dr. Spens, and eczema mercuriale by Mr. Pearson.

This eruption is usually preceded by heat and itching of the skin, a frequent pulse, and a white tongue. Most commonly it begins on the inside of the thighs, or about the flexures of the arms; and Mr. Pearson asserts that it generally attacks the anterior parts of the body before the posterior. The parts affected are first of a faint red colour, and gradually the shade becomes deeper. The eruption proceeds by slow degrees over the whole surface, accompanied with an evident tumefaction of the skin, with great tenderness and heat, and most troublesome itching.

Examined by a magnifying glass, the eruption appears distinctly vesicular, though the vesicles are so minute that they cannot be distinguished by the naked eye. These minute vesicles contain at first a pellucid fluid, and are each surrounded by a circular redness. From the great itching they are soon and inevitably ruptured, and discharge a thin acrid fluid, which irritates and excoriates the surface, and aggravates greatly the patient's sufferings. In this way the disease proceeds from one part to another, till the whole person becomes affected.

When the vesicles are first ruptured, the fluid which exudes, though thin, offends the linen, but after a few days the discharge becomes thick, and emits a most offensive smell. As the different parts of the body are affected in succession, the exudation is thin in one part, and thick and adhesive in another. In a day or two the adhesive discharge ceases, the cuticle loosens, assuming first a pale brown colour, and then turning nearly black, when it separates in large flakes, leaving a faint redness on the exposed surface. Sometimes this desquamation is succeeded by a second or third, in the form of white scales like farinaceous powder. In some cases the hair and even the nails have also separated along with the epidermis.

The duration of the disease varies from a fortnight to eight or ten weeks, or even longer. Dr. Alley has described three varieties, viz. *hydrargyria mitis*, *simplex febrilis*, and *maligna*; and out of forty-three cases which he witnessed within ten years, eight patients died. Mr. Pearson on the other hand, asserts that he has not seen a single fatal case. For a more particular account of this loathsome and distressing affection, the reader is referred to Dr. Spens's Observations already quoted, Dr. Alley on *Hydrargyria*, Mr. Pearson, second edition, page 196, and Dr. Bateman, page 254.

These morbid effects of mercury do not seem to depend entirely upon the quantity or mode of preparation of that medicine which may be administered to the individual, for while it is an established fact that the mildest preparations employed externally, if exhibited in too large doses, or continued for too great a length of time, are followed by some of the bad effects above enumerated; it is also notorious, that very small quantities of mercury have suddenly proved equally injurious. Thus, in a lady, (whom the author attended some years ago along with his intelligent friend Dr. Farquharson,) who had had such small doses of the blue pill, combined with opium, for three nights successively, that the whole quantity amounted to no more than five grains of the mass, salivation begun on the fifth day, and notwithstanding every attention the tongue and gums became swelled to an enormous degree, bleeding ulcers of the mouth and fauces took place, and such excessive irritability and debility followed, that for nearly a whole month her life was in the utmost jeopardy. Every practitioner must have met with similar cases.

Another common consequence of a very small dose of mercury, is an excessive bowel complaint. In many individuals a permanent irritability of the stomach and intestinal canal has followed the accidental exhibition of a few grains of calomel.

Various other anomalous affections have been known to succeed the use of mercury. Thus, Dr. Falconar mentions, (Memoirs of the Medical Society of London, Vol. III. page 381), that "he once saw a dropsy of the breast produced by the use of a mercurial remedy for a redness in the face, which it effec-

tually removed, but instantly produced a dropsy of the chest, terminating in death." Dr. Blackall has recorded similar cases.

In his observations on the *hydrargyria*, page 40, Dr. Alley asserts, that he had seen "that eruption appear over the entire body of a boy about seven years old, for whom but three grains of calomel had been prescribed ineffectually as a purgative."

Many other instances of violent effects from a small dose of mercury might be cited. Besides, the following case seems to prove, that mercury may remain inert for a considerable time in the habit, and afterwards, by some inexplicable circumstance, may become active.

A lady, the mother of four children, in the twenty-eighth year of her age, had a bad miscarriage at the end of the fourth month. When the author was called, she was very much reduced from the loss of blood, and required the ordinary palliative remedies.

Three days after the first visit she complained of a bad taste in her mouth, with soreness of her gums, and on the following day salivation took place. On inquiring into the circumstances of her previous history, it was learned, that four years before, she had had for a fortnight a course of the blue pill, which had only slightly touched the gums, and it was solemnly asserted, that she had never again taken any preparation of mercury, and had been in general good health.

The salivation was therefore at first attributed to some accidental cause, but when it was found to be proceeding with great violence, the medicines which the lady had been taking for the palliation of the complaints produced by the abortion, were carefully analyzed, from a suspicion that some mercurial preparation might have been mixed with them, but it turned out that they contained no mercury. The most anxious and unremitting attention, and the careful exhibition of all the ordinary remedies which have been employed in similar cases, proved unavailing. The salivation, with the usual consequences of excessive emaciation, debility and irritability, continued for above twelve months. Occasionally for a day or two it was checked, but alarming vomiting, with threatening sinking of the living powers, supervened. The patient, however, eventually recovered.

It is universally acknowledged, that although the morbid effects of mercury may be induced very suddenly, and by very small quantities of the medicine, in certain constitutions, there are no marks by which such peculiarities of habit can be distinguished, and there is no method of arresting their progress.—Inflammatory complaints may be subdued by bloodletting and other remedies; but in many cases where the mercurial action takes place, such means are either inadmissible, or inefficacious.—That in warm climates those violent effects of mercury occur infinitely less frequently than in countries where there are considerable alternations of heat and cold, cannot be denied, and ought to be especially noticed. But that they sometimes do take place even within the tropics,

can be proved by the most conclusive evidence."

The above account of the terrible effects of mercury from the best authority of the Allopathic school, is enough to convince any one, we should think, that the use of that mineral in disease, should be governed by well ascertained rules, or much irreparable mischief may result from its employment. But we regret to be compelled to assert that in the Allopathic school, there are no rules of any value, by which it may be known when and how mercury should be prescribed, so as to secure its curative effect, and avoid its destructive tendencies. If there is any practice that deserves the appellation of *quackery*, it is to be found in the administration of mercury by Allopathic physicians. It is employed in almost all diseases, in one form or another; and in doses varying from half a grain to thirty and even eighty grains. The almost universal use of this mineral in disease, arises, from a fact, not at all known in the Allopathic school; which is, that mercury will palliate almost all diseases; although it cures very few. Therefore, the palliation received from mercury gives it the reputation it enjoys, and affords to the physician a sort of credit by a mitigation of the sufferings of the sick; but after a while, a worse thing comes upon them; from which, very often, there is no relief. A large proportion of chronic diseases are rendered incurable by the never ending action of mercury in conjunction with some chronic miasm. This gives rise to what is termed a complication of diseases—by which, is meant, that the malady is not understood; that it cannot be cured; and that the physician is not to be blamed. We have never known anything to satisfy the relatives and friends of the dead, so well, as to fix in their minds that death was caused by a "complication of diseases." We doubt if this complicated diseased condition ever takes place without the aid of drugs; our daily observation goes to confirm us in this opinion. Notwithstanding the severity of our remarks, we regard mercury as a most valuable remedy. As used in homœopathic practice, it seldom, if ever, causes injury. The largest dose is a grain of the third trituration, and not often repeated. Hartman remarks "mercury excites a number of symptoms in the healthy human body, which indisputably so closely resemble diseases of frequent occurrence,

that we are led to expect their cure from it; but still, according to the assertions of Hahnemann, this is not the case; but it proves one of the most deceptive palliatives in chronic diseases, and the symptoms which had disappeared from its exhibition, not only recur, but return after the reaction of the organism in a much more violent degree." If this were really the truth, its circle of effects would be very limited; and yet, many physicians of the Homœopathic school, regard it as one of the most active, and indispensable remedies; and when administered in accordance with the established rules of Homœopathic practice, no injury will result. In the use of mercury, therefore, the Homœopathist secures its curative effects and avoids its injurious effects; which is another illustration of the superiority of Homœopathy over Allopathy.

IMPORTANCE OF STUDY TO THE PHYSICIAN.

"To attain positive ability, or even tolerable merit, you must study—now, henceforth, AND FOREVER. Remember, that the delusive fame of false pretensions and fictitious show, fades with the first ray of living truth, and dwindles, like the fabled echo, into an empty sound. The laurels that are won in idleness and falsehood are blanchied in an hour, and the etiolated leaves hang on the brow as withered emblems of false glory. Remember that flowery paths and sleepy couches are not the birthright of the physician; his patrimony is not the paraphernalia of titled privileges, nor the gay trappings of pampered wealth. The gilded halls of amusement, and the revelry of the festive board, are to him forbidden pleasures. Remember that ease and sensuality are incompatible with learning—that Mammon and Minerva preside not at the same altar; and that the physician should rather anticipate the labors of Hercules, than a life of listless inaction. Remember that the honors which cluster around the brows of Alexander, of Washington, of Napoleon—the fame of Hunter, of Rush, of Physick—have sprung from sleepless energy and eternal vigilance.

Do you doubt it? Try the glory of indolence. Spend your nights in frivolous amusements, and your days in whistling to the winds; look deep into the wonders of Robinson Crusoe, or revel in the marvellous pages of Sinbad the Sailor;—study profoundly the philosophy of the Devil on Two Sticks, and cheer your souls with Mother Goose's Melodies. And then count your laurels! Call on fame for the green wreath—and instead of honors, the first note of the wide-mouthed trumpet shall bring down the withering scorn and derision of an indignant world.

It has been said—

"The man is yet unborn who duly weighs an hour."

And it may be so. Some of us may think that we improve to the best advantage the golden hours; but it is more probable that we waste the light of day and the hours of the night in frivolous pursuits, positive idleness, or unnecessary sleep. The great difference in individuals lies in the power of application. There is less disparity in intellects than many suppose; there is more difference in industry, perseverance and method of study. A celebrated German astronomer remarked recently to an English traveller, that he had uniformly studied fourteen hours out of the twenty-four with but one exception, and that exception occurred on the day of his marriage, and on that day he studied but eleven hours. But in order to regain the three hours thus lost, he arose next morning three hours earlier than usual, and resumed his studies.

It is true we cannot study every moment; but we should remember, that without unceasing energy we can never gain more than a very subordinate position. The laurels that wreath the poet's or the patriot's brow, have grown by the light of the midnight lamp, or sprung from eternal vigilance. It was this contempt of ease, and love of labor—or, love of knowledge and hatred of ignorance—which nerved John Hunter, and Cooper, and Johnson, and Hope, and Velpeau, together with their millions of compeers, to their glorious and successful careers.

But while I would urge you to deeds of fame, I would not fire you with ill-tempered ambition nor rash mental desires; these are fraught with danger. An insatiable and unprincipled desire for distinction is apt to be crushed; it will cover before the awards of justice like the lashing billows of the ocean before the omnipotent will."—Prof. L. M. Lawson's *Introductory Address, delivered in the Medical College of Ohio, Nov. 1847.*

We have not seen the lecture, of which the above purports to be a part. The extract is from "*The Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*" We hope Prof. L. will favor us with a copy. Such sentiments, although highly wrought, are truthful and timely. At all times it affords us unfeigned pleasure to quote the sayings and doings of our brethren of the Allopathic school, whenever they tend in any measure to promote the true interests of the healing art. If the advice of Prof. L. was followed, our own generation would see the downfall of quackery, and the establishment of true practical principles in medicine, which would receive the confidence and support of the public; and the members of the medical profession would "bury the hatchet," and never more degrade themselves by unjust personalities, as is the custom now-a-days. This is a

great evil, which should be put away. And, the sooner it is done, the better for all concerned. If physicians would study! another evil of magnitude would diminish: viz—the habit of receiving, without due investigation, the doctrines and sentiments of those, who somehow or other, have secured the titles of "great men,"—"leading men of the profession." We do not mean to say but that these terms are often appropriate, yet it is well known, that truly "great men" sometimes write and publish very foolish things. Experience shows, that a Physician, of all men, should be no man's man. This does not imply that he should be proud, vain, ill tempered, self sufficient, fault-finding, or unduly suspicious; but he should use the intellectual powers with which he has been endowed to investigate for himself, all subjects essential to a genuine physician.

It is admitted on all hands that the medical profession is in a state unworthy its character and importance. This fact, has given rise to unusual movements, of late years, but no satisfactory result has as yet been reached, and much of what has been accomplished tends to make matters worse.

It was said truly "the public have lost confidence in the profession;" and it is also true, that the major part of its members do not perceive why it is so. This is a remarkable fact, and aids much, to prevent a restoration of that lost confidence. The public, see and comprehend the subject; but physicians, with few exceptions, do not so.

"The first and sole duty of the physician is to restore health to the sick." This simple, almost self evident truth, lives in every mind, out of the profession, and it is the rule by which physicians and systems of medicine are judged of. The people know that their hopes have been blighted by Allopathic practice, under the most encouraging promises, from men reputed most eminent of the profession. Could any result other than a loss of confidence be reasonably looked for, in a system of medicine which fails to fulfil what it promises? In our opinion there needs be no mistake in an interpretation of the signs of the times. The people have a controversy with the medical profession. They ask health of it, and it promises to give it, but does not. In the place of health it talks to the people about the honor, the dignity, the learning, and the regularity of the profession; about which they feel little interest, unless they are cured of their maladies.

What avails it, with the public, if a member of the profession, be a learned man, a talented man, an honest man, and so forth, if he fails to cure the sick? What avails a system of medicine with the public which fails to cure disease?

It is folly for physicians to quarrel with one another; such conduct increases difficulties; for the public mind becomes more and more distracted, and a door is opened thereby, for the admission of much mischief. Physicians must, individually and collectively, look at the cause of the loss of public confidence, which is plain enough; and the real question involved in the subject must be met fairly and fully. To do this, the advice of Prof. L. should be received and followed; and in this way those unnatural, unnecessary, and injurious disputations would soon cease.

ORGANON OF THE SPECIFIC HEALING ART,

BY COTTLE LUDWIG RAU, M. D.

Translated from the German by C. J. Hempel M. D.

New York :—William Radde, 322 Broadway.
Also, J. T. S. Smith, 592 Broadway.
Philadelphia :—C. L. Rademacher.
Boston :—Otis Clapp. *St. Louis, Mo.* :—
F. Franksen & C. F. Wesselhaft.—1847.

We have just received from Mr. Radde, a copy of the above work. It is well printed and neatly bound. Price \$1 25.

In the style in which the above work is written, and in the name which the author has seen fit to give to it, he has assumed an independence of action, which by some may be esteemed laudatory, but which cannot fail, in other minds, to excite a suspicion of the motives which have influenced him, and to induce a critical consideration of the doctrines advocated in the work, and which are peculiar to the author, or at variance with those entertained by the larger portion of the Homœopathic school.

While we acknowledge the right of any one to entertain and to publish such sentiments and doctrines as he sees fit to do, and while we are friendly to a free discussion of important facts and principles in medicine, whether new or old, and while we believe that such discussion will tend to develop and advance the truth, we would put our medical brethren upon their guard in receiving those new views and doctrines without careful analysis and rigid comparison. Homœopathy like other new sciences, presents many attractions to a large class of minds which are always ready to adopt anything new which may save them the trouble of thinking for themselves, and is likely to afford the means of advancing their position or interests; and it likewise presents strong temptations to a higher order of intellectual and moral endowment, to gratify ambition, and insure dis-

tingtion, by a course of speculation and theory. In recommending the above work to the consideration of the professional readers of our Journal, we have but to ask that they will read it with their attention directed to the foregoing considerations.

It is our purpose at some future time, and from time to time, to give our own views of the doctrines which are set forth in this book, acknowledging the merit of such as we esteem to be true, and stating our reasons for dissenting from such as we regard to be erroneous.

There is one fact, indicated by the present condition of the Homœopathic School, which cannot but afford to every true disciple of it, the highest gratification; and that is, the almost universally prevailing disposition to adopt in theory, and to rely upon in practice, the truth and exclusiveness of the Homœopathic law, "*Similia similibus curantur.*" So long as the new principle is thoroughly comprehended, and applied in practice, by intelligent and judicious minds, we have little to fear for the stability and progress of Homœopathy as the art of medicine.

We conclude this brief notice by a single extract from the above work.

"What has induced me to devote myself, for the last seventeen years, to the study and propagation of the new doctrine, is not the love of system nor the spirit of party, but an intense conviction of its high worth.

When after a practice of twenty-two years, I first commenced the study of Homœopathy, it was yet very imperfect, but even then I saw very clearly that it would rise above the character of an empirical art, and would even take precedence over any of the existing medical doctrines.

My gratitude for Samuel Hahnemann, the author of the new doctrine, has not allowed me, however, to close my eyes to its existing imperfections.

To aid in removing them, has ever been my warm desire; neither the contempt with which the thoughtless partisans of Hahnemann seemed to look upon my effort to impart to their new doctrine a higher scientific character, nor the uncivil denunciations which the blind champions of the old dogmatism have hurled against the new doctrine, nor the insulting names with which its disciples have been reviled by authors and editors of medical journals, will prevent me from accomplishing my purpose.

I have always endeavored to acquaint myself with every new advancement in the medical sciences, and claim therefore the right of expressing an opinion on the present character and standing of Homœopathy.

I had hoped, but in vain, that some more able man than I am, would arrange the existing materials into a more scientific system of therapeutics.

The time has come when this should be done, both for the benefit of the beginning practitioners, who require a guide in the more thorough study of our doctrine, and in order to show to our vehement opponents, that *discovered* principle are superior to those which have been excogitated by human ingenuity.

I have called this work "Organon;" not because I consider it the last development of Homœopathy, but, simply because it is a record of my own views and opinions.

I am convinced that Homœopathy is capable of constant progress, and consider it any body's right to proclaim to the world the result of his honest and earnest meditation.

Truth belongs to mankind, not to the individual man; what he considers truth, it is his bounden duty to state."—*Giessen, Aug. 1838.*

NEW YORK HOMŒOPATHIC DISPENSARY

At 57 Bond Street. Open daily—Sunday's excepted—at 3 o'clock, P. M. Also, on Saturdays, at 12 o'clock, M., for the treatment of Surgical Cases.

Physicians in Attendance.

Monday—Drs. Kirby & Barlow.

Tuesday—Drs. Quin & Taylor.

Wednesday—Drs. Snow & Bowers.

Thursday—Drs. Wright & Bolles.

Friday—Drs. Bayard & Allen.

Saturday—Drs. Joslin, Mc Vicar and Hawks.

SMITH'S HOMŒOPATHIC PHARMACY.

No. 498 Broadway, corner of Broome street.

J. T. S. Smith has a large assortment of Homœopathic Medicines, in tinctures, triturations, dilutions and globules; Arnica flowers; Sugar of Milk, Pure Alcohol, Distilled Water, Pellets, &c., &c. Physician's Pocket and Family Cases of Medicine on hand, and prepared to order. Homœopathic Plasters a substitute for ordinary Court and Adhesive Plaster, and an excellent application for Corns.

C. L. RADEMACHER, 39 North 4th street, between Arch and Cherry streets Philadelphia, Agent for the Leipsic Homœopathic Medicines, respectfully informs the Homœopathic Physicians and the friends of the Homœopathic system, that he has always on hand a good assortment of Homœopathic Medicines in their different preparations, viz: Tinctures, Triturations, Dilutions, and medicated Pellets.

Medicine Chests of different sizes for Physicians, with Tinctures and Triturations, Dilutions, or medicated Pellets. Also constantly on hand, Family Medicine Chests to suit, Hering's Domestic Physician; Laurie's Homœopathic Domestic Medicine; Epp's Domestic Homœopathy; Newman's Homœopathic Family Assistant; and the Family Guide. Also Refined Sugar of Milk, Alcohol, Vials of different sizes, Corks, Labels, &c.

OTIS CLAPP, No. 12 School-st., Boston, has on hand, and for sale wholesale and retail, a large assortment of Homœopathic Medicines, in tinctures, triturations, dilutions and globules; Arnica flowers, sugar of milk, pure alcohol, distilled water, pellets, etc. Physician's pocket and family cases of medicines on hand and prepared to order, also a complete assortment of Homœopathic Books which are offered to the trade, and at retail as low as can be purchased elsewhere.

HOMŒOPATHIC PHARMACY.

Chicago, Ill.

B. H. BARTLETT Agt. respectfully informs Homœopathic Physicians, and others, that he has for sale, warranted, the principal HOMŒOPATHIC MEDICINES, in their different triturations and dilutions; Pure Spirits of Wine, for preparing and preserving medicines; Distilled water, prepared for immediate use; Refined Sugar of Milk; Pure Globules or Pellets, Vials, Corks, Diet Papers and Labels. Arnica Flowers and Arnica plaster.

Cases and single vials refilled, and Physician's and Family Medicine chests on hand, and put up to order. All orders by mail or otherwise for any of the above articles, or for any Homœopathic publications, promptly attended to.

J. F. DESILVER, 112 Main St., Cincinnati, Ohio, is the Agent for the West, of the Homœopathic Pharmacy at Leipsic. Physicians and others can always be supplied at this establishment with pure medicines adapted to the homœopathic system of treatment; medicine chests suited to Dr. Herring's Domestic Physician; refined sugar of milk, &c. Also Agent for the American Journal of Homœopathy edited by Drs. Kirby and Snow. New York; a semi-monthly publication at one dollar a year and adapted to lay readers.

GENERAL AGENCY of the Central Homœopathic Pharmacy at Leipsic for the United States, No. 322 Broadway. Wm. Radde respectfully informs Hom. Physicians and the friends of the System, that he is the sole Agent for the Leipsic Central Homœopathic Pharmacy, and that he has always on hand a good assortment of the best Homœopathic Tinctures and Medicines in their different Triturations and Dilutions; also Physician's Pocket and Family Medicine Cases, containing from 27 to 300 vials. Pure Spirits of Wine. Fine Vials, different sizes, and made of white glass. Corks. Diet Papers. Labels Homœopathic Chocolate. Arnica Plaster, an excellent application for Corns. Also an assortment of Hom. Books, in English, German, and French; as Jhar's Manual of Hom. Practice, in 2 vols., By A. Gerard Hull, M. D. Hahnemann's Chronic Diseases, in 5 vols., by Ch. J. Hempel, M. D. Hahnemann's Materia Medica, 2 vols., by Ch. J. Hempel, &c.